

## Post-Event Summary Report

**Name of Event:** 2005 Temple Terrace Conference on Aging

**Date of Event:** May 3, 2005

**Location of Event:** Lightfoot Center, Temple Terrace, Florida

**Number of Persons attending:** 20

**Sponsoring Organization(s):** City of Temple Terrace & Elder Care Advocacy of Florida

**Contact Name:** Kelly Ahern, City of Temple Terrace (Austin R. Curry, Elder Care Advocacy of Florida)

**Telephone Number:** 813.760.4029    **Email:** arc@curryales.com

Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first. **Please ensure that your organization's name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.**

**Priority Issue #1:** (describe specific issue) Social Engagement/Leisure Activity.

There is a need for additional Social Activities: Dancing (Line, Round, Square, all types), Group Singing, Sing-a-longs, organized songfests. Discussion group sessions on Topics of the Day, Small meeting areas (in lieu of huge open auditorium type space) for informal discussion by community groups on subjects of local interest that are conveniently located.

**Barriers:** Will require funding of newer type facilities that will accommodate. Community does not want tax increases. Absence of organized community leadership effort.

**Proposed Solution(s):** Possible remodeling of existing facilities (Recreation Center) to include smaller rooms. Utilization of Library or City Buildings for use as meeting sites. Apply for grants to cover specified needs. Develop community leaders to advocate for this need.

Elder Care Advocacy of Florida, Austin R. Curry, arc@curryales.com

**Priority Issue #2: Education and Learning:**

Need allocations for Seniors at Low or NO cost, along with adequate free parking, or provide transportation to nearby University of South Florida. Offer training for seniors that would allow for decent positions in current employment positions. Need education for all people regardless of culture or ethnicity. Offer a series of Political Roundtable discussions on community issues that would inform residents to enable knowledgeable decisions. With the future increase in Latino populations offer and encourage the availability of language instruction to all interested seniors.

**Barriers:** University wants tuition from all that attend. Training programs not established for seniors in decent paying employment. Perception for need in multi-Lingual abilities for all not yet recognized. Funding for transportation to USF is not available.

**Proposed Solutions:** Meet with management staff of USF to determine feasibility of obtaining grants for elder education programs. Solicit assistance from the Department of Elder Affairs in training seniors for currently needed positions for employment. See if USF can furnish one of their many “on campus” bus units for use when classes are scheduled and participants warrant utilization. Encourage life story writing.

**Priority Issue #3: Volunteering and Volunteerism**

Community can benefit from additional volunteering in many areas. Neighborhood clean up events, Help an Elder Day, Aid your Neighbor Day, and the like. Hospitals at USF and VA can use volunteers. Start mentoring programs at community schools. Offer reading programs and materials for disadvantaged seniors.

**Barriers:** Lack of organized efforts. Leadership in community for this is not evident. Means of getting to Hospitals and schools presently not available. Dissemination of information concerning need is absent.

**Proposed Solutions:** Establish Volunteer Coordination Office at City Hall or other Municipal Office location. Have Civic Clubs offer to organize programs for volunteerism. Solicit input from Hospital and Library facilities to see if they could not furnish morning and afternoon, as appropriate, transportation needs for volunteers.. Post notices of needs and availability in Senior and Recreation Centers, as well as weekly local publications.

**Priority Issue #4: The Arts and Cultural Activities.**

Need for community elders access to Arts and Cultural programs. Simple programs like creative painting, group musical programs, poetry reading and writing, local play

production efforts specifically directed at and for senior residents. Have available good musical and theater productions that are available to elders at low cost.

**Barriers:** Lack of awareness by general public and elected officials. Funding of programs is unavailable. Current demand for this is not in the minds of the majority of seniors in the community. Professional groups depend on admission prices for their livelihood and coverage of production costs.

**Proposed Solutions:** Determine extent of demand and potential use through surveys of seniors. "If available will you attend?" Investigate possibility of attending the rehearsal sessions of professional groups, or invite rehearsal of proposed shows at Senior or Recreation Centers. Apply for grants for the Arts that are available. Establish an effort for community arts and culture promotion and interest by retirees or other elders that were involved with the arts or entertainment in earlier life.